



Facts About Animal Research

Animal Research is Necessary for Medical Progress

Animal research is integral to ongoing research; e.g., spinal cord repair; stem cell treatments (Parkinson's and Alzheimer's); gene therapy (muscular dystrophy, diabetes); molecularly targeted cancer medicines.

No complete alternatives to animal research exist – computer models and cell cultures can't give vital information about the safety and efficacy of a substance in a living system.

Animal research is *not* exclusive – it is used with epidemiological studies, computer modeling, tissue/cell cultures, and human trials.

Animal Research is Humane

Veterinarians and lab technicians care for – and about – the animals!

“The 3Rs Rule” – *Reduce* the number of animals used; *Refine* studies to ensure humane conditions; *Replace* animals with other models whenever possible.

Most research studies don't cause significant pain or distress. Care is taken to protect animals from undue stress which can distort study results.

The Animal Welfare Act, regulations, policies, oversight, and voluntary facility accreditation all protect laboratory animals.

Animal Research Saves Lives

Animal research has led to elimination of polio, smallpox, rabies and measles as U.S. public health threats; new diagnostic tests for early treatment (cancer, heart disease); and effective treatments for serious illnesses (diabetes, leukemia, HIV/AIDS, cardiovascular disease).

Surgical procedures evolve from animal models; e.g., pigs used in developing new cardiac surgery techniques and organ transplants. Animal use aids bioengineering advances (stents, pacemakers, joint replacements) and imaging technology.

Animal research benefits animals. Dog and cat longevity and health are enhanced by medicines and vaccines. Research contributes to farm animal welfare and techniques to save endangered species.

The same research often helps humans and animals (treatments for arthritis, neurological disorders, organ transplants, cancer therapies).

Did You Know?

Nearly *all* research animals are rodents, fish or reptiles. Dogs, cats, and non-human primates account *together* for less than one percent of total research animals.

Pets are *not* at risk. More than 80% of research dogs and cats are 'purpose bred'. Limited 'random source' animals – with proper documentation – are provided to research by a handful of qualified registered dealers.

Remember: We all have the responsibility to engage in public outreach!



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